



Guides view the Tillingbourne near Friday Street

Managing Surrey Hills Countryside

Sometimes, a number of related topics become talking points at the same time and, in doing so, create sufficient momentum to be seen as issues which need addressing urgently. Such would appear to be the case with a number of environmental matters at the moment.

TV programmes such as Blue Planet II have raised the problems of pollution and waste high up the political agenda. Simultaneously, climate change and its impact is starting to be accepted by the majority of people and is, hopefully, gaining traction with those who can force the pace of change in limiting the underlying causes.



Promoting the Surrey Hills

Within this same timeframe, the UK government is creating a 25 year Environment Plan whilst, more locally, Surrey Nature Partnership has been developing a Natural Capital Approach for Surrey.

Alongside this Michael Gove, whilst Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, initiated a Landscapes Review of National Parks and AONBs. The interim results of this (the official report is due in the autumn) suggest that what we have at the moment falls short of what can be achieved – partly because our protected landscapes have not been given the tools, the funding and the direction to do the job which is now expected of them.

A key suggestion is that “more must be done for nature and beauty. More must be done for people who live in and visit our landscapes, too. And a lot more must be done to meet the needs of our many fellow citizens who do not know the countryside at the moment, or do not always feel welcome in it, but should be able to enjoy it.”

We, as a local charity whose aims are closely aligned to these thoughts, have been working hard since our inception to meet these very goals. The Society is clearly heading in the right direction, even if we have a lot more to do in the future as we grow in scale and stature.

One of our strengths is that, because we are not land holders, we can work with all those other like-minded organisations who want to



A free Sunday walk at St Catherine's chapel

enhance and conserve the Surrey Hills and make them more accessible to the whole population. We also need to raise general public awareness that any landscape needs management in order to make it sustainable for future generations. Thus our talks and promotional activities are going to continue to be an essential part of how we make more people feel comfortable in the countryside. We also want to reach a wider age group to get them used to being out of an urban environment – and this is why our work with youth groups such as Girl Guides and Brownies is so important to us.

In this edition, we take a look at the land management and environmental challenges faced within our different landscape types. These range from heathland and chalk grassland through to woodland, river valleys and, of course, our farmed landscape. We hope you will enjoy these articles by our guest contributors with whom we work on a regular basis.

Chairman's Views

In our last newsletter I reported that the Society had been nominated for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS). In June we were delighted to be notified that we had been chosen to receive this prestigious Award. The QAVS is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities and is the equivalent of an MBE for volunteer groups.



It is a huge testament to everything the Society does that we received the Award just after our 10th Anniversary and that our volunteers have developed a strong enough reputation to justify this honour. The selection process was rigorous, looking at all aspects of what the Society has been doing in recent years and how it achieves the objectives for which it was created. We identified that there are currently approximately 70 active volunteers, who give their time freely to support the Society across a range of activities. These people are the life blood of

the Society and their work enables all our members – and those that we connect with through all our activities – to enjoy, enhance and conserve the Surrey Hills AONB.

It is not only our current volunteers to whom we dedicate this Award success. We would not be such a successful and vibrant charity if it had not been for the hard work and foresight of those who helped establish the Society and have supported us throughout the years.

The Award will be presented at a ceremony later this year. At the time of going to print we are still finalising the details.

My second piece of news is that after five years as the Society's Coordinator, Marika Elzinga is leaving us to set up her own business. We are extremely sorry to be losing her. She has made an enormous contribution to the Society during her time with us.



Marika Elzinga



Lesley Crofts with Gordon Jackson

I would like to extend a personal thank you to her for all her help during the last year as I have taken over as Chairman. We wish her every success in her new venture.

In Marika's place, I am delighted to welcome Lesley Crofts, who joined us at the beginning of August and is now immersed in the somewhat daunting task of taking over the administration of the Society. Lesley is a former legal secretary and I have known her for many years. I know that she will be an enormous asset to the Society and she will be attending various events with a view to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming months.

Gordon Jackson, Chairman

Closer links with Arts & Crafts Movement

The Surrey Hills are rich in buildings associated with the Arts and Crafts Movement. The collaboration of architect Edwin Lutyens and garden designer Gertrude Jekyll at 'Munstead' is well known. However, the work of many other architects can also be found in the county. The Society for the Arts and Crafts Movement in Surrey (ACMS) exists to celebrate and foster interest in all forms of art, architecture and design of 'the Arts and Crafts Era' - the period from 1860 to 1930.

A few years ago, ACMS arranged two events for the Surrey Hills Society (SHS). We visited St Martin's in Blackheath and other buildings by the Arts and Crafts architect, Charles

Harrison Townsend, led by one of our knowledgeable guides. These events proved to be so popular, that it has now been decided to run more joint events for both ACMS and SHS. We began this with a study day at 'Goddards' in June and were delighted to welcome five SHS members.

We will continue to invite SHS members to those parts of our programme based on a Surrey or general Arts and Crafts subject. We have an annual programme of lectures, held in Guildford, on Arts and Crafts themes. Topics have included architects, artists, garden designers, interior fittings – in fact, you name it and we will try to cover it. We

arrange walks and visits to places of Arts and Crafts interest. More details can be found at www.artsandcraftsmovementinsurrey.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming you to many of our events in the future.

Carolyn Smith, Acting Chairman, ACMS



Society visit to Blackheath

Surrey Hills Society's Annual General Meeting

Saturday 12 October 2019 at 10.30am

You are invited to the Society's AGM to be held at the Evelyn Hall, Abinger Common RH5 6HZ. The meeting will be followed by a fascinating Arts & Crafts focused talk and tour. Event details and official paperwork will be available at www.surreyhillssociety.org/about/agms in due course.

Take the Plunge - Rivers Week

22-28 September 2019

Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) and partners are running a series of events for Rivers Week. These support United Nations World Rivers Day on Sunday 29 September and promote the value of rivers to the health and wellbeing of wildlife and local communities. Join SWT and celebrate our county's beautiful river habitats. See www.surreywildlifetrust.org for more details.

'Be Nice Say Hi'

This summer saw the regional launch of the 'Be Nice Say Hi' campaign with actor Jenny Seagrove – pictured with Duncan Dollimore (Head of Campaigns, Cycling UK) and Mark Weston (Director of Access, British Horse Society).

The campaign promotes a consideration and courtesy awareness message 'Be Nice Say Hi' to encourage cyclists and horse riders to pass each other safely.

Jenny Seagrove commented; "I am delighted to be a part of this initiative in Surrey and hope to see it taken up across the country. The welfare of horses is at the very heart of what we do at Mane Chance Sanctuary and I think the 'Be Nice Say Hi' campaign should be applauded for considering the needs of both horses and humans, as they share our beautiful countryside."

Signs are being put on bridleways in areas where there are particular concerns over conflict.



James Giles at Thursley NNR

My Surrey Hills

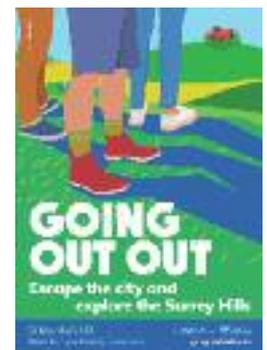
The seventh instalment of 'My Surrey Hills' is now available at www.surreyhills.org/my-surrey-hills and focuses on James Giles, the Reserve Manager at Thursley National Nature Reserve. These videos form part of a series being used to raise awareness of the new AONB Management Plan, which

will be launched in November. All the videos highlight the importance of the landscape to each person. To date there has been a runner, forest school leader, landscape photographer, volunteer, horse riders and mountain biker. Each of the videos are produced by Dorking based videographer Markus Dell and released monthly on our #MySurreyHills YouTube channel.

70 years of protected landscapes

A major campaign launched in July to encourage younger people to "go out out" and escape city life to explore the amazing countryside on their doorstep. The high-profile visual campaign features at major train and bus stations across the South East as well as Gatwick Airport. The campaign aims to entice young people out of busy urban areas to discover the 'breathing spaces' of National Parks and AONBs. The campaign launches in the 70th anniversary year

since the Government passed an Act of Parliament to establish National Parks and AONBs. The contemporary posters pay homage to the beautiful vintage postcard-perfect posters from the 1930s when city folk would head into the countryside, on trains and buses, for long walks. Almost 90 years on, the campaign aims to connect a whole new generation. Visit www.going-outout.co.uk to discover more.



One of the promotional posters

Inspiring Views Campaign

Help Surrey Hills Arts' new fundraising campaign to restore a lost viewpoint on the North Downs Way National Trail. Just a short walk from Newlands Corner, the trees and undergrowth have grown up significantly,

closing off views across the Weald to the South Downs. Surrey Hills Arts want to re-create and maintain these views, enhance the habitat for insect and butterfly populations to flourish, and install a sculptural seat.



Kaleidoscopic Leaves feature



Optohedron seat

The commission for this striking seat has been awarded to artist Will Nash. The seat will provide the perfect opportunity to stop and enjoy the view. Will has developed the shape from his fascination for geometry and patterns in nature. Concealed within the timber will be three spherical kaleidoscopes, each one orientated to view a different natural element of the place. The artwork is called 'Optohedron' derived from the ancient Greek: optikós, "of seeing" and hédra "raised seat".

Everybody who makes a donation will receive a reward. For more information and to view the exciting rewards visit www.inspiringviews.org

Surrey Hills Arts is also working with University for the Creative Arts, Farnham on an 'Unearthing Landscapes' symposium on Thursday 10 October. See www.surreyhills.org/events for details.

Surrey's heathland is rarer than rainforest

Heathland is characterised by its wide open landscapes, covered by purple heather and dotted with yellow gorse. This is home to a range of rare species including sand lizards, smooth snakes, common lizards, adders, grass snakes, slow-worms, nightjars and the Dartford warbler. Most of Europe's heathland has now been lost due to development. It is even rarer than rainforests and is one of the most threatened habitats in the world.

Society members on Ash Ranges with SWT ranger



In Surrey we have only a few hundred hectares remaining and much of this is managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT), who are the countryside managers for Surrey County Council. SWT also have the contract to manage Ministry of Defence land such as Ash Ranges – which some of our members explored during a recent visit in August.

There are a variety of reasons why this habitat is so endangered. These include a lack of appropriate management, pollution, and pressures from urban development... to name just a few.

Heathland requires regular grazing by livestock and controlled burning, which was the practice for over a 1,000 years. Uncontrolled 'wild' fires, which destroy large areas of heathland, have also put severe pressure on this rare habitat in recent years.

In the past, heathland was often used for housing development or conifer plantations – all encouraged by government policy, which viewed heathlands as of little value. Furthermore, increasing levels of air pollution have also resulted in unwanted nutrients

falling onto lowland heathland. This can critically alter the acidity and overall nutrient status of sites – which favours other species like invasive grasses and bracken.

Development has also caused fragmentation of the heathland, leaving only isolated pockets. There is growing concern that opportunities for heathland species to disperse between different sites are inevitably very limited. Increasingly popular recreational pursuits like mountain biking and walking, can lead to excessive disturbance of wildlife, pollution through dog-fouling, littering and damage through trampling. These issues help one to realise why this environment is so under threat.

However, given time and appropriate management, the heathland vegetation can often reassert itself. Encouragingly, awareness of this special habitat has increased in recent years and losses have diminished greatly. Nevertheless, development pressure remains a significant local threat for what remains of Europe's heathland – much of which is found here in the Surrey Hills.

Christine Howard, SHS Vice-President and SWT Trustee

The impact of climate change on English vineyards

The English wine industry has been growing rapidly during the last decade, which in part at least, has been associated with climate change. An increase in temperatures of about 1°C during the last 30-40 years has resulted in slightly riper grapes and our climate is now perfect for producing quality sparkling wines. During the last three years over seven million vines have been planted in the UK and annual production is estimated to increase from an average of five million bottles to more than 20 million within the next five years.

That all sounds like good news, but the effects of climate change have also presented growers with some real challenges. Potential damage from spring frosts has always been a risk, but with warmer starts to the year 'bud break' often starts earlier, which leaves the vines more susceptible to cold weather. In 2017 the industry lost about 40 per cent of its yield as a result of devastating frosts.

Insects are a vital part of our environment and the complex food web it supports. Two of the very important roles they perform are as pollinators (including many food crops, although not grapes!) and decomposers,

breaking down and eating all manner of dead plant and animal material. At Albury we are part of a North Downs farming group that is working hard to encourage an increase in pollinators (some of which have been in sharp decline during recent years) by planting insect friendly crops.



Bug hotel – image courtesy Albury Vineyard

It is clear that the UK viticulture industry will need to play its part in reducing the environmental damage associated with climate change. A WineGB sustainability group is about to publish some guidelines for all UK vineyards which will help mitigate some of the effects of climate change. This includes setting targets for reducing chemical sprays and minimising soil cultivation so as to reduce carbon release.

Around the world the wines we enjoy today may not be the ones we drink in the future. Warmer temperatures will result in riper fruit – which generally results in higher alcohol levels or sweeter wine. The traditional gooseberry flavours of a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc are now changing to more mellow pineapple and lime juice flavours. Closer to home, a temperature increase by 2°C in Northern Europe would make it very difficult to produce quality sparkling wine in the Champagne region. England is already producing some quality still wines and this trend is likely to continue as temperatures increase.

Nick Wenman, Owner, Albury Vineyard

River Mole and its management

The Mole is a dynamic, ever-changing river; with weather, soil erosion and flood waters guiding its course through the landscape. Rivers need room to stretch themselves to enable flooding of nearby areas following heavy rain. They cannot simply be contained and the floodplain is an essential element of a river. Historically, agriculture depended on regular inundation to boost productivity, where a crop could be taken and the aftermath grazed before the winter floods returned. This cycle helped to create the riparian landscapes we all recognise.

More recently, river management aimed at restricting the watercourse. Much of the original floodplain had been built on, so water had to be channelled away quickly to remove the risk of flooding. Following serious flooding in the 1960s, an engineering scheme was built to protect the town of Molesey. This resulted in a large concrete channel and a series of weirs and sluices. Successful engineering perhaps, but it did little for aquatic and bankside habitat. The original scheme is reaching the end of its life and is currently being reviewed. Flood protection is key, but the Environment Agency (EA) is also keen to promote biodiversity.

Today, management is more about working with a river, allowing it room to breathe.



River Mole at Betchworth

Attempts to move flood water quickly contribute to flooding downstream, as more water reaches the plain at the same time and the system struggles in severe weather. New schemes known as Natural Flood Management (NFM) are being trialled. NFM looks at ways of holding the floodwaters in the tributaries by felling trees and logs across streams, effectively creating a series of mini dams. The floodwater is released in smaller, slower flows, reducing flooding downstream.

The EA has responsibility for fisheries, flood protection and water quality, but it can't do it all. Main rivers now have Catchment Management Partnerships (CMP) overseeing them. These include

stakeholders from the EA, wildlife trusts, river trusts, local authorities, water companies, angling groups and local organisations. They gather information on the river and seek feedback from local stakeholders on a range of issues. Improvement schemes are discussed and proposals put forward to secure funding from government and other sources.

The Rye Brook Restoration Project, covering Ashted to Leatherhead, is one example of Mole CMP success. Various organisations and voluntary groups were already working on different stretches of the Rye, but there was no joined up approach. The CMP funded a survey of the Rye and produced a series of improvement proposals with input and feedback from local people. The result is a range of ecological, riparian and public access improvements along the Rye, including new wetlands, improved fish passage, weir removal, habitat management, and river monitoring schemes. The work has been done by many people, from EA staff to local volunteer groups, school children and corporate volunteering teams. This has led to increased understanding of the river, local people identifying with their area and helping to improve their community, whilst re-connecting with the river landscape.

Conor Morrow, Senior Countryside Partnership Officer, Lower Mole Partnership

Surrey's precious Chalk Downland

Chalk downland is an internationally rare habitat and in Surrey it is found quite extensively along the North Downs. Old chalk grassland is one of the richest habitats in Western Europe in terms of botanical diversity and contains as many as 45 species per square metre. Up until the Second World War, traditional grazing practices ensured that this habitat was maintained in a wildlife friendly manner. Since then, large areas have been lost as a result of the intensification of agriculture and development.

The cessation of traditional grazing over much of the North Downs has proved to be the

greatest threat because, once grazing ceases, coarse scrub quickly becomes dominant. When this happens, the wild flowers and invertebrates that characterise good quality chalk grassland are rapidly lost. In many places, rabbits provided a substitute for livestock grazing, but in recent times numbers have been significantly reduced by disease.

Preserving as much as possible of our Surrey downland is important and a number of conservation organisations are actively involved in the management of chalk grassland. The Downlands Trust and the Downlands Partnership are key contributors to this.

Manual clearance of scrub with the help of volunteers is often a first step in habitat restoration and, once this is achieved, conservation grazing can commence. Depending upon local circumstances, this may involve the use of sheep, cattle and occasionally goats. Results have been impressive and large areas of chalk grassland are now being successfully conserved in this way.



Chalk downland in Happy Valley, Coulsdon

Climate change is affecting a variety of ecosystems but studies have shown that unimproved calcareous grassland may be relatively resistant to climate change. There are some plants that are currently at the northern edge of their range and so may benefit from a warmer climate; conversely, there are indications that some coarse grasses could become increasingly dominant. The management regimes needed may become more challenging with extreme weather events and, once there is a more complete understanding of the effects of climate change, may require adaptation.

Peter Wakeham, Downlands Trust



Pyramidal orchids on Chipstead Downs

A Farmers Perspective

Every farm is different so this article focuses on what we do on the Hampton Estate between Puttenham and Seale. We have a variety of business streams on the estate ranging from forestry to film locations but our two key farming activities are for hops and beef cattle.

In recent times we have invested heavily in our Fuggles hops. There is a big market for these and we also like the historical aspect of being the last of the long established hop gardens in Surrey. With a plant life of 40 to 50 years, we are committed to this crop for a long time and are working to reduce the amount of spraying and pest control required for them.

We are probably best known for Hampton beef. We used to have a dairy herd but



Fuggles hops

converted to beef farming and focused on keeping our cattle outdoors all year to graze on our grassland. Our Sussex cattle are perfect for this and enable us to play to our strengths of having the right type of cattle on the right sort of land.

The ethos of our farming is that “you can only do with your farm what you can do with your soil”. Thus we need to understand what grows well for us. Our soil is relatively sandy and nutrient poor but by moving to permanent pasture we are able to use natural farming practices that help enrich it. For example, we have changed the way the fields are grazed. Previously, large fields would have been heavily grazed for 3 to 4 weeks and then the cattle moved. Now we have a lot of animals in a small area for just a few days and then move them to another area. This approach more closely mimics the natural behaviour of herds in pre-agricultural days.

The benefit of this grazing approach is that the pasture spends less time being grazed and more time growing. Our pasture has an enormous mix of grasses, herbs, legumes, etc. and this biodiversity helps ecologically whilst benefiting animal nutrition & health. The longer growing period means that the roots go deeper so are able to access more moisture and nutrients. The leaves grow longer and provide more shade – which cuts down on evaporation. Longer leaves also create a beneficial habitat for more ‘creepy crawlies’ so, again, a benefit for the environment.

The logic behind the grazing pattern is that one third of the grass will be eaten, one third left standing and one third trampled. This trampled grass becomes mulch which helps with moisture retention and provides

food for all the worms, bacteria, etc. which make up good soil.

This low intensity beef farming approach enables us to farm in a way where the cattle act as a net contributor to carbon sequestration rather than carbon release. However, it can only work for us because we focus on a niche market of high quality beef in small amounts. Recent reports promote eating less meat and our approach is “eat less, but eat better”. We only sell meat when it is ready rather than a steady production rate as required by mass markets. Also, we are very lucky to have a local population who want a high quality product. If we lived in a remote area with few local residents, such an approach would not work.

Looking to the future, the biggest changes for us are likely to be driven by consumer trends and are very hard to predict. However, at the national level, Britain has forgotten that its best crop has always been grass. That lesson needs to be re-learned. It isn't just as grazing for ruminants but for all the environmental benefits of having grass at the heart of farming systems and the social benefits which come from landscapes having grass within them.

*Bill Biddell, Hampton Estate
Will Godwin, Assistant Estate Manager*



Sussex cattle at Hampton Estate

Planning Views

Good news. The Government's apparently growing recognition of concerns about biodiversity and the rural environment is reflected in its new planning guidance entitled 'Natural Environment'. The guidance, aimed primarily at planning authorities and those proposing development, encourages 'net gain' – i.e. development that leaves the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. Net gain covers both biodiversity and wider environmental net gain. If that really proves

to be the new approach it will mark a step change in planning decisions and the enhancement of the natural environment.

The Surrey Hills AONB Office is considering the best ways that net gain – leading to the enhancement of the AONB – can be sought within local plans and planning application development proposals. One thought is that developer contributions could considerably boost environmental land management payments through the Surrey Hills Trust Fund.

Also welcome is that the guidance now

gives greater importance than before to conservation and enhancement. Hence it not only covers nationally designated landscape areas but also locally designated landscapes, such as the Surrey Area of Great Landscape Value, and the wider countryside.

One hopes that the councils within the Surrey Hills and Planning Inspectors will embrace and apply this guidance in their approach to development proposals. We will see.

*Clive Smith,
Surrey Hills AONB Planning Adviser*

Sponsor's View – A Changing Scene

The United Kingdom has a relatively small number of indigenous mammals. When the sea cut us off from the Continent, many species were excluded from our island or became isolated. Human activity led to other species, considered at that time as not useful to mankind, being eliminated.

Birds and insects are another matter, with many treating Europe as one giant playground and travelling to wherever the pickings are the greatest. As our climate warms, additional species of winged migrants will thrive here.

When I was born in 1949 my parents would never have believed that one day people would see parakeets visiting their gardens or find wild boar and Sika deer living in our woodlands.

Many worry about the decline of native species, but criticize the reintroduction of raptors and other species that their forebears hunted to extinction. Nature as a whole is declining in

the United Kingdom, but it is also evolving. We have introduced many foreign species of trees and plants and their pollinators and parasites have now followed them.

We now have a rich diversity of domesticated animals, with buffalos catering for our international tastes in cheeses, llamas and alpacas replacing or guarding our sheep and of course the turkeys that were introduced from North America.



Alpaca at Chilworth Manor

We need to adapt to the changing landscape. Beavers are good for flood prevention, whilst buzzards and red kites clean up our road kill. We should welcome back these former residents of our country.

In addition, some of the exotic birds and animals that will thrive in a warmer Britain may support beneficial change in our landscape.

There is a growing movement to re-wild our country and rural areas. We need to anticipate that more and more land may be built upon for commerce and housing to meet population growth. Some farms currently given over to the production of meat, which is deemed to contribute to global warming, may have to find new means of earning a living. Custodianship of the landscape is increasingly being seen as more important, politically, than maximum food production. Old practices may have to change and wildlife be seen as a benefit, not a threat.

In various parts of the country, groups are seeking to involve their communities in welcoming back animals, plants and other wildlife into their gardens, public spaces and countryside. Joined up conservation needs to be everyone's responsibility and we should act together to encourage a richer, more diverse, environment.

Anthony Wakefield, Newsletter Sponsor

Surrey Hills Girlguiding Badge – Update

Following the launch of the 'Into the Surrey Hills' badge to Girlguiding units across Surrey, it was taken up with enthusiasm and nearly 1,000 badges and worksheets have been distributed to groups of all ages from five to fifteen.

Effingham Guide Unit did it all! They researched the Surrey Hills online with a view to choosing a place they all wanted to visit. Each patrol picked their favourite and then had to pitch it to the others to come to a decision. After a vote, they all walked to



Guides walking into local woods



Brownies at Winkworth

the Tillingbourne Falls and Friday Street and enjoyed their choice.

Nork Rainbows visited Buckland and were privileged to be invited into the windmill by the owner. Although coming from nearby Banstead, they had not realised how lucky they were to live so close to the AONB.

Godalming Brownies went out to Winkworth Arboretum – and they had lots of fun out of doors.

This is just a selection of the activities that units have undertaken. There were many more who also enjoyed working towards the badge and we have received many positive comments both about the design work and the incentive to get the girls out into the hills. There has been a huge benefit from providing the worksheet as each girl took theirs home and the knowledge about the AONB filtered through to the whole

family – some of whom went on family excursions too.

As a result, there are a lot of young people in the county who are now much more aware of the beautiful landscape in which they live and who have been out and about in the Surrey Hills. Many of them are now proudly displaying the attractive badge on their uniform and so further spreading the message for us.

Stella Cantor, SHS Trustee and former Girlguiding Commissioner



Rainbows at Buckland

Event Programme September 2019 – February 2020

Visit our website for more information and additional events.

Booking is essential – even for free ones. Bookings generally open about 6 weeks before each event. Non email users can get more information by sending a SAE to the address above.

13, 14, 20, 23, 29, 30 September

The Society is leading numerous walks as part of Guildford Walking Festival. See www.guildfordwalkfest.co.uk for more details

Sunday 15 September

The Industrial History of Abinger

A free guided walk around Abinger. Meet at Gomshall Railway Station GU5 9NX. 10.30am for 11.00am start. Part of Mole Valley Heritage Open Days.

Tuesday 17 September

Return to Mane Chance Sanctuary

Visit this horse sanctuary which looks after horses in their later years whilst helping disadvantaged children learn the soothing healing powers of animals.

Saturday 21 September

A Day on the Farm at Wotton

Visit one of Surrey's largest farms for a talk, walk and lunch. Learn about farm production alongside environmental enhancement and educational work

Sunday 22 September

Surrey Hills Challenge and Festival of Sport

Enjoy this fun festival of outdoor sporting activities from a 60km marathon to a 1km family walk. Fundraising for the Surrey Hills Trust Fund. www.surreyhillschallenge.com

Wednesday 25 September

Guided Walk around a Wealden Village

Coffee followed by a guided tour of Newdigate and optional pub lunch.

Saturday 28 September

Sponsored Walk in aid of Guildford Street Angels

A 14 mile guided walk along the North Downs Way pilgrimage route from Guildford to Dorking. Join for free but donations to Guildford Street Angels appreciated.

Saturday 28 September

Harvest Celebration on Box Hill

Free evening event with Surrey Hills Arts and National Trust celebrating harvest time. The theme this year is the Moon. See www.surreyhills.org/events

Saturday 5 and

Sunday 6 October

Surrey Hills Wood Fair

www.surreyhills.org/events/the-2019-surrey-hills-wood-fair

Sunday 6 October

Explore Polesden Lacey

A free guided walk around the grounds of this magnificent house. Meet Polesden Lacey car park. 10.30am for 11.00am start.

Friday 11 October

Pre-Raphaelite Women Artists Talk

Lecture at Watts Gallery's 'Limnerslease' on remarkable women of the Pre-Raphaelite art movement. www.artsandcraftsmovementinsurrey.org.uk

Saturday 12 October

AGM at the Evelyn Hall Abinger Common plus Arts & Crafts talk, tour and lunch

Our 11th AGM will start at 10.30am. See box on page 2 for more information.

Thursday 24 October

Saving our Bees Talk

A fascinating talk on the decline of the bee population and ways to assist in promoting their well-being.

Wednesday 30 October

Tree & Fungi Identification Walk

A walk around Sheepheas, East Horsley with our expert, Pamela Holt.

Sunday 3 November

Explore Reigate

A free guided walk around this fascinating market town. Meet at Priory Park car park, Bell Street, Reigate RH2 7RL. 10.30am for 11.00am start.

Tuesday 26 November

Arts and Crafts Movement in Surrey (ACMS) Talk

Rod Hughes is a specialist on the Arts and Crafts movement. Expect a fascinating talk on this historic period. Joint event with ACMS.

Wednesday 27 November

Surrey Hills AONB Symposium

See www.surreyhills.org/events

Saturday 7 December

Pre-Christmas Walk at Belmont School

Join us on this annual festive stroll to Holmbury St Mary, followed by mulled wine in this wonderful Arts & Crafts school.

Saturday 14 December

Christmas Wreath Making

Get into the festive spirit with a morning's walk gathering seasonal foliage in private woodland to then make into a festive wreath.

Friday 27 December

Walk off your Christmas Pudding

Our annual event to get you out into the Surrey Hills and perhaps help start a new regime of exercise in the New Year.

Sunday 5 January 2020

Walk around Godalming

Meet at Godalming Station, Station Approach, Godalming GU7 1EU. 10.30am for 11.00am start.

Thursday 27 February

Meet the Farmer - Talk and Tasting

Join local farmer, Ian Jones, for a talk on raising pigs in the Surrey Hills, followed by a tasting session.



Dog friendly but kept on a short lead throughout the walk



Family Friendly



Signposting for events where SHS will be present

 Free monthly guided walk, open to all, including non-members



Easy/flat



Moderate



Challenging

To join us go to www.surreyhillsociety.org or phone 07530 949302